

EAST OF ENGLAND CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD

Our Environmental Sustainability Policy

July 2025

The East of England Co-operative Society Ltd believes being sustainable means looking at every part of our business and culture. It's about being accountable for our impact on the planet and supporting our colleagues and communities to thrive. We are committed to achieving efficiencies, reducing our energy consumption and environmental impact.

In 2010, we set out to reduce our Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 3% annually over ten years. We exceeded this goal, and 15 years later, our emissions are more than 70% lower than when we began.

We reset our emissions baseline in the 2019/20 financial year, reaffirming our commitment to reducing CO₂e emissions with the goal of achieving a 50% reduction by 2025.

Over the past 12 months we have achieved an 11% fall in CO₂e emissions. This progress was driven by a 6% decrease in grid electricity use and action to lower fugitive emissions from refrigerants. Key contributing factors included store refurbishments, upgrades to refrigeration and the installation of additional solar panels.

We're proud to report that our emissions are now an impressive 42% lower than in the baseline year. We've taken significant action to address and mitigate the factors that contributed to an increase in financial year 23/24 and if the current trend is maintained we will achieve the target 50% reduction in Scopes 1 & 2 by financial year end 2025/26.

Our commitments:

This is a living policy which develops alongside the changing needs of the planet, our customers, communities, and Our Co-op. Over the next 12 months we will be undertaking a full review to make sure it remains relevant, and our action is focussed where it will provide the greatest benefit.

We commit to ensuring that our future greenhouse gas emissions targets are:

- Aligned to the latest climate science to limit global warming to below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels
- Credible, achievable but ambitious in magnitude and timing.
- Third party validated and accredited to a recognised standard.

Financial year 25/26 (we will):

- Formally commit to external validation (such as the Science Based Targets initiative – SBTi).
- Revise, develop, confirm current carbon reduction and net-zero targets as necessary in line with external validation requirements.
- Continue to develop our sustainability goals integrating positive action against into all areas of our business, fully embedding into "Our Co-op plan" increasing awareness and buy in from our colleagues
- Measure and publish performance data against our identified priorities.
- Continue to reduce our combined Scopes 1 and 2 CO₂e emissions by investment in energy efficiency and clean technology.
- Increase the provision of electric vehicle charging points across our estate (to include overnight, rapid and ultra-rapid charging facilities).
- Include Scope 3 emissions in our carbon reporting and reduction strategies.
- Have submitted emissions reduction and net-zero targets and attained validation.

- Develop strategies and take action to reduce our emissions over all scopes to ensure delivery of validated targets.
- Ensure that any cars provided to colleagues are full Electric Vehicles (EV).
- Increase on-site and Society owned electricity generation to meet at least 3% of annual consumption.
- Have undertaken a full review of our sustainability approach to ensure our priorities and goals remain current.

Responsibilities:

The Chief Property Officer is responsible for championing energy efficiency, carbon saving and environmental policy at the Executive level.

The Head of Sustainability is responsible for the development of this policy and for driving action throughout the Society to deliver its commitments.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Environmental Sustainability Policy	May	2021
Reviewed	July	2024
Reviewed	July	2025
Next review due	July	2026

President.....*Joy Burnford*